

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /065 W

----- 092692

R 177122Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8588

INFO SECDEF

DIA

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL DURON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: MILITARY INCIDENTS IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 2947

1. REFTEL REPORTED CLASHES IN THE AREA OF THE SE BANG FAI BRIDGE (VD 988878), NORTHEAST OF SAVANNAKHET IN MR III. A SERIES OF PL/NVA-INITIATED ATTACKS PUSHED RLG TROOPS FROM TWO POSITIONS ON APRIL 7 AND 8. AFTER THREE DAYS OF QUIET, MINOR PL ATTACKS RESUMED ON APRIL 11 IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA. ON APRIL 12 AND 14, A THREE-BATTALION FAR TASK FORCE ATTEMPTED TO RETAKE LOST POSITIONS WITHOUT SUCCESS. BY APRIL 15, FAR HAD RETAKEN ONE POSITION AND REOCCUPIED THE SECOND ON APRIL 17. FAR CASUALTIES IN THESE INCIDENTS WERE LIGHT BUT 15 HOUSES WERE DESTROYED IN ONE VILLAGE. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT THE PUBLICITY THESE ATTACKS RECEIVED CAUSED THE NVA/PL TO ORDER THEIR TROOPS WITHDRAWN.

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2. IN OTHER AREAS OF LAOS FOUR MINOR SCATTERED
CLASHES WERE REPORTED DURING THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 17,
WITH ONLY ONE KNOWN FAR FATALITY.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT: CLASHES IN SE BANG GAI AREA HAVE BEEN
REPORTED EXTENSIVELY IN THE BANGKOK PRESS. SOME OF
THESE REPORTS HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT SEEK
OPPORTUNITY, PERHAPS AT PRESS BRIEFING, TO PRESENT
A MORE BALANCED PICTURE, DRAWING ON FOREGOING REPORT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, CASUALTIES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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